

REMARKS

Claims now presented for prosecution in this Application are claims 22-32 and 35-44, claims 20, 21, 33 and 34 being canceled by the present amendment. Claims 20, 21, 31, 33 and 34 have been rejected over cited prior art. In view of Applicants' amendments and remarks below, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 22-32 and 35-44 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the present Response be considered and entered, the rejections to the claims be withdrawn, and that the case now be passed to issue.

Replacement Pages 2, 2A, 2B, 3 and 12

The Examiner has indicated that the Preliminary Amendment has only been entered in part, as "the replacement pages were not included with the amendment".

In response, Applicants' Representative respectfully asserts that Replacement Pages 2, 2A, 2B, 3 and 12 were, in fact, submitted with the Preliminary Amendment, as reflected by the file copy of the documents actually filed with the U.S. Patent Office.

Moreover, given that misplaced papers are not an altogether uncommon occurrence at the U.S. Patent Office, Applicants' Representative respectfully requests that should papers asserted as being filed not be in the file wrapper of the application at the time the Examiner reviews the case, now or in the future, that the Examiner kindly contact Applicant's Representative so that such papers may be resubmitted, via facsimile or the like, rather than asserting as a factual matter that they had never been submitted or filed with the U.S. Patent Office. That is, Applicants' Representative is not doubting that the Replacement Pages were not in the file at the time the Examiner reviewed the file, only that these papers being absent, and the papers 'not being included' with the previously filed Preliminary Amendment, are

factually different issues. The Examiner's assistance in this regard, in this and any future applications, would be most appreciated.

In any event, Applicants are herein re-submitting Replacement Pages 2, 2A, 2B, 3 and 12 and respectfully request that Replacement Pages 2, 2A, 2B, 3 and 12 be considered and entered prior to a Notice of Allowance, or other further communication, being issued.

The Objection to the Drawings/Specification

The Examiner has objected to the drawings with respect to the numeral '22'. In response, Applicants are submitting herewith four (4) new sheets of formal drawings (Figures 1-10) that include references to numerical changes made to these drawing figures, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants have also amended the specification to incorporate the numerical changes made to the drawing figures, again as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the outstanding objection to the drawing figures and specification now be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112 First Paragraph Rejection of Claim 31

The Examiner has rejected claim 31 as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make and/or use the invention.

With respect to the Examiner's statement that the specification does not provide support for the introduction of the connection lines into the gas bag and onto the gas bag, Applicants have amended claim 31 to remove the inclusive 'and' term from claim 31.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph rejection of claim 31 now be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection of Claims 20, 21, 31, 33 and 34 over Lewis

The Examiner has rejected claims 20, 21, 31, 33 and 34 as anticipated by Lewis. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully assert that Lewis does not disclose at least each and every element of newly amended independent claim 31.

Applicants have amended claim 31 to include the recitation of now-canceled claim 20, as well as to clarify the placement of the conducting lines.

With respect to Lewis, Applicants respectfully assert that Lewis does not teach or suggest the specific arrangement of the conducting lines, as recited in independent claim 31.

In particular, claim 31 recites, in part, "*wherein connection lines for the ignitable pyrotechnic charge are applied onto the textile material of said gas bag*". In Lewis, the pyrotechnic charge arguably reads upon 'deflation member 84', however the connecting lines leading to deflation member 84, elements 103 as rightfully called out by the Examiner, are not 'applied to the textile material of the gas bag', as explicitly recited in independent claim 31.

As clearly stated in column 11, lines 2-5, and as shown in Figure 22, the 'connecting lines' 103 of Lewis' device are not applied to the envelope 30, rather lines 103 which supply electricity to the deflation member 84 merely *lead to*, rather than being *applied onto*, the envelope 30.

Applicants' respectfully submit that Lewis therefore cannot anticipate each and every aspect of newly independent claim 31 and respectfully request that claim 31, and those claims dependent thereon, be allowed on this basis alone. Claims 20,

21, 33 and 34 have been canceled by the present amendment in an effort to expedite prosecution.

Applicants earnestly believe that claim 31, at least, now clearly defines over Lewis and the other cited prior art of record; however, should the Examiner believe that there remains any outstanding issues, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' Representative so as to expedite resolution of these outstanding issues, via an Examiner's Amendment, or the like.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection of Claims 20, 21, 33 and 34 over Lewis

The Examiner has rejected claims 20, 21, 33 and 34 as anticipated by Lewis. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully assert that Lewis does not disclose at least each and every element of newly amended independent claim 31.

As Applicants have canceled claims 20, 21, 33 and 34 in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants respectfully request that the present rejection be withdrawn.

Newly Independent Claims 22, 23, 27-30 and 32

In response to the Examiner's indication that claims 22, 23, 27-30 and 32 contain allowable subject matter, Applicants have placed these claims in independent form, including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants therefore respectfully assert that claims 22, 23, 27-30 and 32 are now in condition for allowance and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

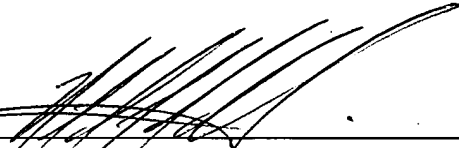
CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22-32 and 35-44 are allowable, and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below to expedite resolution of any issues that the Examiner may consider to remain unresolved. In particular, should a Notice of Allowance not be forthcoming, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned for a telephonic interview, an Examiner's Amendment, or the like, while the outstanding issues are fresh in the mind of the Examiner.

It is believed that no additional fees or deficiencies in fees are owed apart from the One-Month Extension of Time. However, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No.13-0235 in the event any additional fees are owed.

Respectfully submitted,

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